

**CHARLES TAYLOR MASTER
MECHANIC'S AWARD**

**Fairbanks Flight Standards District
Office Honoree 1998**

CYRIL HETHERINGTON



HETHERINGTON, CYRIL (CY).

Cy Hetherington was born in September 1927, at Los Angeles general hospital. Cy's family moved from LA to Oregon and back to LA before settling in Norfolk, Virginia at the age of 5. After graduating from Norview High School in 1943, Cy enrolled in William and Mary College where he took classes in the Aircraft Mechanic Program.

From 1943 through 1945, he worked as an apprentice aircraft mechanic at the U.S. Naval Air Station. During his apprenticeship, Cy performed tasks in Aircraft Battle Damage Repair, which included dismantling and assembling several types of Navy aircraft such as the F6F Hellcat, F4F Wildcat, and PBM Mariner aircraft.

At the end of 1945, Cy was inducted into the U.S. Army. He attended basic training in Missouri, and was then stationed at Los Alamos, New Mexico. During his brief military career, Cy served as a military police officer and mechanic.

Following his discharge from the U.S. Army, he worked in the eastern U.S. and seasonally here in Alaska, for the U.S.

Coast and Geodetic Survey, known today as NOAA. Some of the work involved triangulation from Point Lay to Barter Island, as an engineering aid. During this time, Cy also attended Arlington School of Flight and Engineering. He obtained his Airframe and Engine (A&E) license and his private pilot certificate in 1951.

In the spring of 1952, he moved permanently to Fairbanks, Alaska. Cy flew to Alaska on a Trans-Ocean Airlines, C-46 that landed here in Fairbanks at Ladd Field. He later gained employment with Trans-Ocean Airlines as a line mechanic on the C-46 and Norseman aircraft.

From 1952 through 1955, Cy was employed at Northern Consolidated Airlines, which started at Weeks Field. During these years, he met his wife, Margaret known as (Daisy) at the Tanana Hospital. In August 1956, they were married in a small log cabin in College.

During the years 1955 through 1957, Mr. Hetherington continued to further his skills as a mechanic at Interior Airways. Cy served as Director of Maintenance and serviced several aircraft such as C-46, DC-3, various Cessna's, and the Stinson's JRSR which is on display in the Pioneer Air Museum at Alaska Land. He also contributed to the implementation and completion of the Dew line. On several occasions, he recovered aircraft that were off runways due to things occurring that the pilots had not planned on. His technical abilities and fortitude contributed significantly to the process of ferrying several aircraft from Canada to Barter

Island and later on to Fairbanks where permanent repairs could be made.

1958 through 1961, while employed at Fairbanks Aircraft Service, Cy served as a mechanic and IA inspector. His abilities extended to refurbishing PA-12s, Super Cubs and Cessna's. Also, he worked for Civil Air Patrol, and during that time, their son, Thomas was born.

From 1961 to the present - Cy has resided at Manley Hot Springs, along with his wife Daisy. They have established their own business, Hot Spring Aviation. During this time, he has owned several aircraft such as: Cessna's 205, 180, and a 170. He also purchased a Hughes 269 helicopter in Virginia, disassembled, and loaded it on his truck to bring it to Alaska. Once arriving in Alaska, Cy had it assembled and leased it to Alaska Central for training. He later traded it to Frontier Flying Service for a Cessna 206, which he owns today. He also has accomplished many other tasks such as purchasing a Seabee and refurbishing it with the help of other Seabee aircraft parts.

Mr. Hetherington holds an airframe and engine mechanic certificate with an Inspection Authorization. He has also been a designated mechanic examiner. He holds a commercial pilots certificate, rated in airplane single engine land and sea. He is also an instructor and ground instructor, and has provided valuable service to aviation as an FAA safety Counselor.